

Register result

The following action has been taken by a Federal agency. It was previously summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER as a proposal.

- **Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC)** has adopted new rules that will require truckers of household goods to assume responsibility for loss of or damage to all items they accept for shipment. Rules also include the moving company's limitations of liability. For example, household movers are not responsible for perishable articles included in the shipment—when a mover does not know perishable items are being shipped. Details—*Federal Register*: March 5, page 9551; April 16, 1975, page 17044. CONSUMER REGISTER: May 15, 1975.

Baggage screening

On April 15, **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** will require domestic airlines to screen some checked baggage in an effort to keep bombs off the planes. Present regulations require the screening (X-ray) of carry-on baggage for weapons but no screening of checked baggage. New screening will be selective.

Details—*Federal Register*: March 15, page 10911.

Pooled time deposits

April 16 is deadline for comments on **Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.'s (FDIC)** proposal to prohibit banks under its jurisdiction from paying a higher rate of interest for large denomination (\$100,000 or more) pooled certificates of deposit (CDs) than they do for deposits of less than \$100,000. Informal investment companies, groups of individuals & money market mutual funds sometimes "pool" their money in order to buy big CDs that carry high rates of interest. Interest rates of CDs in denominations of less than \$100,000 are regulated, but CDs in denominations of \$100,000 or more are not. FDIC has been concerned that such "pooling" of funds to buy large denomination CDs at negotiated interest rates "is contrary to the underlying intent of its interest rate regulations."

Details—*Federal Register*: March 8, page 9896. Send comments to Office of the Executive Secretary, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., Washington, DC 20429.

Food ad claims (continued)

April 30 is new deadline for comments on **Federal Trade Commission's (FTC)** proposal to set standards for nutrition claims in food advertising.

FTC has decided that its food advertising rule procedure will be held in 3 phases. (Public hearings on the first phase are listed elsewhere in this issue of CONSUMER REGISTER.)

First phase deals with voluntary claims on (1) natural & organic food; (2) energy & calories; (3) fat, fatty acid & cholesterol content; & (4) health & related matters.

- **Natural & organic food**—FTC is concerned about consumers' ability to understand terms such as "naturally grown" & "organically grown." Are such foods nutritionally superior or superior in any other respect, to foods that are not advertised as "natural"?

- **Energy & calorie claims**—Should advertisements say that eating a certain food by itself will provide "health, general vigor, sustained energy or alertness"? Should the ads have to say that such vigor depends, in part, on the calories in the food? Should the number of calories in a food for which an "energy" claim is made be disclosed in the advertising?

- **Fat, fatty acid & cholesterol content claims**—Since **Food & Drug Administration (FDA)** prohibits any label linking the con-

sumption of a particular food to the prevention of heart trouble, should FTC's rule be consistent with FDA's rule? If this prohibition is applied to advertising, would consumers be deprived of certain information that is accurate & helpful?

- **Health or related claims**—Do consumers understand the term "health food"? Does using "health food" in advertising tend to suggest that the advertised food is nutritionally superior to similar foods that are not advertised in this way?

Second phase deals with emphatic nutrition claims & the third phase with mandatory affirmative disclosure of nutrition information. These phases will be announced later, but if consumers & others want their comments on the following proposals to be considered by the staff, they should send the comments in by April 30. Highlights are republished below:

Proposed rule would establish nutritional standards that must be met before some of the following claims could be made in food advertising:

- **Emphatic nutrition claims** that refer to the amounts of various vitamins, minerals & protein in a food—"Loaded with Vitamin A," for example.

- **Nutrient comparison claims** concerning specific nutrients in compared foods & with respect to the comparative nutritional values of food—"Food X has more Vitamin A than Food Y."

- **Nourishment claims** relating to the overall nutritional values of foods—"Food X is nutritious."

- **Claims for foods** intended to be combined with other foods—"Food X, when combined with Food Y, gives you Vitamin A." Such claims could be misleading if the advertised food is not meant to be used alone & does not provide all the nutrients claimed.

Details—*Federal Register*: March 1, page 8980; Nov. 11, 1974, page 39842; Feb. 13, 1975, page 6688. CONSUMER REGISTER: Dec. 15, 1974; March 1, 1975. Send comments to William D. Dixon, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580. Identify as "Comments on Food Advertising Proposal."

Pooled time deposits #2

May 20 is deadline for comments on **Federal Reserve System's (FRS)** proposed prohibition for its member banks that is similar to **Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.'s (FDIC)** proposed regulation.

Details—*Federal Register*: March 15, page 10917. Send comments to Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551.

Metric liquor bottles

Beginning Jan. 1, 1980, **Treasury Dept.'s Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (BATF)** will require the distilled spirits industry to convert to 6 standard metric container sizes.

New metric standards are:

Metric size	Fluid ounces	U.S. size near-equivalent	Fluid ounces
50 ml.	1.7	miniature	1.6
200 ml.	6.8	½ pint	8
500 ml.	16.9	1 pint	16
750 ml.	25.4	¾ quart	25.6
1 liter	33.8	1 quart	32
1.75 liter	59.2	½ gallon	64

Between October 1976 & Dec. 31, 1979, liquor may be bottled in either U.S. or metric sizes. During this phase-in period, labels used on metric bottles must list net contents in both metric & U.S. equivalents. But by Jan. 1, 1980, there will be no requirement to list U.S. equivalents, & consumers will be on their own when they ask for a "750 ml. of gin"—they should know that that size is slightly smaller than the old fifth.

Actually, the "fifth" was unknown to Americans before World War II. At the beginning of the war, grain alcohol was used in making artificial rubber. So to save alcohol & glass, the "victory quart"—4/5 of a quart was born. Although full quarts of liquor became available after the war, the fifth has remained popular.

BATF says changing to metric (1) will reduce the number of bottle sizes (from 20 or more to 6); (2) will put U.S. products on the same standard as the rest of the world; & (3) is consistent with the spirit of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975.

A similar conversion is now underway for wine products. In 1979, wines must be bottled in 7 standard metric sizes.

Details—*Federal Register*: March 10, page 10217.

Hearings

PROTEIN SUPPLEMENTS—Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announces following dates & places for public hearings & new deadline of April 9 for comments. All hearings start at 9:30 a.m.

May 10

Room 13209, Federal Bldg.

11000 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90024

(To speak, write or call Kenneth H. Donney at above address by April 30; telephone: 213-824-7575.)

July 12

Executive Dining Room, John F. Kennedy Federal Bldg.
Boston, MA 02114

(To speak, write or call David Keniry, Room 1301, Federal Trade Commission, Boston, MA 02114, by June 21; telephone: 617-223-6621.)

Sept. 13

Room 332, Federal Trade Commission Bldg.

Washington, DC 20580

(To speak, write or call Jacqueline R. Schmitt, Federal Trade Commission, 2120 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037, by Aug. 23; telephone: 202-254-7663.)

Oct. 18

Room 15018, Federal Bldg, 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102.

(To speak, write or call George Gregores at above address by Sept. 27; telephone: 415-556-1270.)

Details—*Federal Register*: March 10, page 10232; Sept. 5, 1975, page 41144. CONSUMER REGISTER: Oct. 15, 1975. Send comments to Special Assistant for Rulemaking, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.

FOOD ADVERTISING PRACTICES (PHASE 1)—Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announces public hearings as follows. All hearings start at 9 a.m.

June 7

Room 332, Federal Trade Commission

Washington, DC 20580

(To speak, call or write Lois A. Dimore at the above address by May 18; telephone: 202-724-1489.)

July 12

Room 12138, Federal Bldg.

450 Golden Gate Ave.

San Francisco, CA 94102

(To speak, write or call Kerper G. Propert at above address by June 22; telephone: 415-556-1270.)

Sept. 13

Room 347-A, John C. Kluczynski Federal Bldg.

230 S. Dearborn St.

Chicago, IL 60604

(To speak, write or call June Alvord, Federal Trade Commission, 55 E. Monroe St., Chicago, IL 60603, by Aug. 24; telephone: 312-353-4423.)

Oct. 12

Room 452-B, 500 S. Ervay St.

Dallas, TX 75201

(To speak, write or call Rosanna C. Nardizzi at above address by Sept. 21; telephone: 214-749-3176.)

Details—*Federal Register*: March 2, page 8980. See summary of this proposed rule in this issue of CONSUMER REGISTER.

This listing, prepared by Marion Q. Ciaccio, is intended only as summary coverage of selected *Federal Register* items deemed of particular interest to consumers, & it does not affect the legal status or effect of any document required or authorized to be published pursuant to Section 5 of Federal Register Act as amended, 44 U.S.C. 1505. *Federal Register* is published Monday through Friday (except Federal Government holidays) by **Office of the Federal Register, National Archives & Records Service, General Services Administration**. Subscription is \$5 a month or \$50 a year & may be ordered from **Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office**, Washington, DC 20402. Superintendent also sells copies of *Federal Register* for 75¢ each. Free copies of *Federal Register* may be available in libraries.

For you

These forms are for you to use, if you wish, in commenting on any Federal Agency proposal summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER. Of course, if you cannot get your comments on the front & back of a form, feel free to continue your comments on additional paper.

Send comment forms to addresses listed in the summaries.

CONSUMER NEWS is publishing these forms in cooperation with **Food & Drug Administration (FDA)**.

Rate Register Phones

• Effective May 1, **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)** will permit telephone customers to install much of their own equipment instead of having to rent such devices from the phone companies. FCC's action will make it possible for consumers to eliminate monthly service charges imposed by the phone companies for "terminal" equipment, such as the actual telephone instruments, answering machines & burglar alarm devices. Beginning Aug. 1, switchboards & key telephone systems may be connected to equipment that is not owned by the phone company.

FCC's ruling expands a registration program it started last November in order to include residential & business telephones. Coin telephones & party-line telephones will still be subject to the phone companies' protective-device requirements.

To assure the high quality of equipment that is not phone company-owned, FTC will require the registration of all such equipment to comply with FCC's standards. However, even the phone companies' equipment will now have to be registered.

Planes

• National Airlines, the originator of last year's "no-frills" discount fare (no meals or liquor served on planes), has decided to bring the discount to a close on April 30. **Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)** had given National authority to continue it until June 17. National said excursion fares with substantial discounts are widely available.

(Continued next page)

Clip this form, fill in blanks, write your comments & mail to agency noted in CONSUMER REGISTER item.

This is my opinion on (title of item in CONSUMER REGISTER) _____

by (name of agency) _____

published in *Federal Register* on (date) _____ on (page) _____

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Rate Register

(continued)

• On March 19, United Airlines asked Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) to approve a 5% increase for trips between U.S. mainland & Hawaii.—the first such increase in 2 years.

• Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) has ordered a reduction in excess-baggage charges on most international—not domestic—flights beginning June 10. In addition, CAB said present international free-baggage allowance limitations must be revised within one year. Free-baggage allowances are: 30 kilograms (66 pounds) in first-class & 20 kilograms (44 pounds) in economy. Each kilogram (2.2 pounds) of baggage in excess of the free allowance is charged to all passengers at the rate of 1% of the applicable first-class fare. In June, the charge will be 0.7% of the economy fare per kilogram.

Freight

• Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) has allowed Eastern & Southern railroads to increase their freight rates 7%, effective March 21 (instead of March 6, as originally planned). On March 18, Western railroads asked for a similar increase, but they must wait until April 18 to put their increases into effect.

